Community Development Block Grant Program

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Introduction

The Washington State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides funds on a competitive basis for public facilities, community facilities, economic development, housing rehabilitation, public services and planning projects that principally benefit low- and moderate-income households.

Since 1982, the Washington State CDBG Program has distributed and managed over \$419 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). With this funding, the CDBG Program improves and maintains the environment of eligible, rural cities and counties to enhance the quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents, and as a result, make a difference for the entire community.

2010 Funding Set-Asides

In 2010, approximately \$15 million in federal CDBG funds will be awarded to Washington State. It is proposed that funds be distributed as follows:

General Purpose Grants

\$12,000,000

Contact: Lynn Kohn

Annual grant cycle during which eligible applicants may request up to \$1 million for public facilities, community facilities, housing rehabilitation, or economic development projects principally benefiting low- and moderate-income persons. If total project costs exceed \$10 million, the maximum grant can be \$1.5 million. Applications are due by January 21, 2010, with awards announced by early May 2010.

Planning-Only Grants

\$400,000

Contact: Janea Eddy

Grants support a range of planning activities that lead to implementation of priority projects for eligible small communities and rural counties. Funding levels vary by type of project, with the maximum grant for single jurisdiction at \$35,000. Joint planning efforts may receive up to \$50,000. The application handbooks for 2010 will be available by February 2010 and can be submitted year round (on fund available basis) beginning March 2010, with first awards announced by early May 2010.

Housing Enhancement Grants

\$1,000,000

Contact: Kaaren Roe

Companion funds to support priority applications submitted to the Washington State Housing Trust Fund, which fund necessary off-site infrastructure or community facility components of the affordable housing project.

Imminent Threat Grants

\$200,000

Contact: Kaaren Roe

Provides funds to address unique emergencies posing a serious and immediate threat to public health and safety on a funds availability basis. Upon formal Declaration of Emergency and completion of an Imminent Threat grant application, costs can be covered for a temporary repair or solution while funding for a permanent fix is secured.

Public Services Grants

\$1,557,612

Contact: Kaaren Roe

Provides funds to the 12 eligible counties and community action agencies to fund new or expanded direct services for persons with low- and moderate-incomes.

CDBG Loan Portfolio

\$15,000,000

Contact: Steve Saylor (Econ Dev)

Provides eligible jurisdictions with short-term loans for economic development/job creation financing on CDBG-eligible activities meeting a HUD National Objective. Applications may be submitted after adoption of the 2010 Action Plan.

- Float Loan Economic Development/Job Creation
- Rural Washington Loan Fund
- HUD Section 108 Guarantee Loans

HUD National Objectives

CDBG project activities must meet one of three HUD National Objectives:

- Principally benefits low-and moderate-income persons
- · Aids in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight
- Addresses imminent threat to public health or safety

CDBG Eligibility Guidelines

- Eligible applicants are Washington State cities and towns with less than 50,000 in population or counties with less than 200,000 in population that are non-entitlement jurisdictions and are not participants in a HUD Urban County Entitlement Consortium.
- Non-profit organizations, Indian tribes, public housing authorities, port districts, community action agencies, and economic development councils, are not eligible to apply directly to the CDBG Program for funding, but may be partners in projects and subrecipients of funding through eligible jurisdictions.
- Applicants may submit one request per fund each program year, except for local microenterprise program applicants seeking a General Purpose Grant.